Welcome to Story Station U on 89-3 WGSU, Geneseo's Voice of the Valley, your local radio broadcast where campus life meets American headlines! I'm your host, Madilyn Becker, and I'll be breaking down the recent news that could change your weekend plans- or maybe your future!

Thank you all for joining me for this week's headlines and taking time out of your evening plans- or maybe your studying for upcoming finals! We have so much news to cover, so let's begin! A quick reminder: you can follow along with tonight's show by finding my script and all of my sources online on WGSU's website! Find the programming schedule and click on Story Station U!

Beginning our show tonight is a story from Livingston County in Rochester, New York. The Livingston County Sheriff's Office received a phone call Monday night, when a caller reported having found a dead body they wished to turn in. Deputies have reported that the body is believed to belong to missing person, sixty year old, Richard Fluegel Sr. The caller who turned the body in has been identified as thirty year old, Richard Fluegel Jr, the alleged victim's son. Fluegel Jr. has been charged with felony tampering of physical evidence. Livingston County sheriffs have said that more charges will be to come as the investigation unfolds.

Our next headline tonight is the developing murder case of UnitedHealthcare CEO, Brian Thompson. UnitedHealthcare is one of the largest American healthcare providers, and the killing of its CEO comes during a time where protests and anger over healthcare providers' lack of coverage, concern, and aid towards their patients are common. People's Action, an activist group responsible for protests outside of the UnitedHealthcare headquarters April and July 2024, issued a statement related to Thompson's death. It reads "We know there is a crisis of gun violence in America. There is also a crisis of denials of care by private health insurance corporations including UnitedHealth." Lawmakers and federal officials had also recently accused UnitedHealthcare of ''systemically denying authorization for procedures and treatments," according to the New York Times. Other reports from the New York Times revealed that Thompson was fatally shot in Manhattan during the morning hours of Wednesday, December 4th, and that the shooting took place outside a hotel where UnitedHealthcare was holding an investors meeting. Statements from police revealed that they had been investigating recent threats sent to the CEO, with a focus on their source and nature. On the evening of December 6th, the suspected gunman was named as twenty-six year old Luigi Mangione. CNN revealed that the suspect was found at a McDonald's in Altoona, Pennsylvania after an employee called the police to report that someone matching the description of the alleged killer was sitting in the establishment. He was quickly arrested by the Altoona police department and was found possessing an illegal ''ghost gun:'' an untraceable weapon. These guns are often 3D printed, instead of bought legally, so that their owners can avoid leaving a trail for police. Bullet casings, however, were found at the scene of the crime. According to ABC News, they were found with the words ''defend'', ''deny'', and "depose" written on them, possibly a reference to a 2010 book titled "Delay, Deny, Defend: Why Insurance Companies Don't Pay Claims and What You Can Do About It". Police have noted the connection and have not ruled out anger as a motive. He

was initially arrested and charged on three gun-related charges. Today, just a little past 12:00 a.m., he was charged with second-degree murder for the killing of Brian Thompson.

The reactions on social media to the recent killing have been far from what police expected. A popular figure on TikTok, Savannah Sparks, is known for tracking down individuals who commit racist or violent acts. Her account has over 13 million followers, and she has even helped police officers find suspects. However, in the case of Brian Thompson's death, she has been uninterested in helping. Sparks even made jokes about her claim being denied on prayers for the late CEO, referring to the controversy UnitedHealthcare has faced for its lack of assistance for patients. Sparks wasn't the only one making jokes about the killing. After it was reported that police's photo of the suspect came from a moment captured by CCTV cameras in a Manhattan hostel, when the gunman removed his face covering to flirt with the woman at the front desk, jokes flooded social media. "Hallmark Channel has gone too far this time" and ''You couldn't script it if you tried" were posted by two users on X, formerly known as Twitter. Michael McWhorter, another popular, true crime TikTok sensation, commented that he noticed an unusual "lack of urgency" from online sleuths to identify the gunman. Another user on X wrote "The jokes about the United CEO aren't really about him; they're about the rapacious healthcare system he personified and which Americans feel deep pain and humiliation about".

We'll be back with more after this short break on 89-3 WGSU, Geneseo's Voice of the Valley…

BREAK:
PSA 1:00
PSA Tag

Moving to our next story, Donald Trump recently sat down with journalist Kristen Welker of NBC's ''Meet the Press". This marked his first interview after winning the 2024 presidential election. I'll be discussing the highlights of this conversation.

First up: The president-elect laid out his plan for his first one-hundred days as president. He said he would act strongly and with great power in addressing his concerns over the U.S. borders. In his first term as president, he enacted a travel ban into the U.S. from predominantly Muslim countries and put a hold on all refugees entering the United States for several months.

Next, he fielded a question about his controversial comments on tariffs that he made during this year's election. According to CNN, these comments included a promise to enact a 25% tariff on all goods from Mexico and Canada. When asked in this recent interview whether or not he could promise that his tariffs would not raise prices on goods for consumers, he replied by saying "I can't guarantee anything".

Another highlight: The president-elect discusses minimum wage. He told NBC, "It would be very nice to have just a minimum wage for the whole country, but it wouldn't work". The federal minimum wage has been $7.50 per hour since 2009, however, it varies across states; some

states have raised their minimum wage to $15. Currently, in Alaska, the minimum wage is $11.73 per hour. In Missouri, the minimum wage is currently $12.30 per hour. Both of these states voted Republican in this year's election, but also voted to raise their minimum wage.

Our next highlight includes Trump's plans focusing on immigration. He said "you have no choice" when asked if he would deport the millions of illegal immigrants in the United States. He laid out his plan of starting to deport illegal immigrants who have committed crimes first, and then will move onto others. The president-elect did, however, mention that he would work on a bi-partisian deal with Democrats to keep "Dreamers" in the country. The term "Dreamers" refers to undocumented immigrants currently living in the U.S. who were brought here as young children. He went on to say "I don't want to be breaking up families", and explained that the only way he sees to avoid that is to either deport the entire family, or allow them all to continue living in the United States.

The last highlight from Donald Trump's recent interview: he claims he is actively trying to negotiate peace between Russia and Ukraine, however he would not reveal whether or not he has been in contact with Vladimir Putin. The president-elect also pledged that the U.S. would decrease the amount of aid they are sending to Ukraine.

Moving onto our next headline! If you think you've been hearing about food recalls more than usual recently, you're not alone. This past year has been filled with multiple high-profile food recalls, including the listeria outbreak in Boar's Head deli meat and the E. Coli outbreak in McDonald's quarter pounders. According to NPR, a poll in July of 2024 reported that Americans' confidence in food safety had dropped to a record low; 28% of Americans have only some confidence in the safety of U.S. food supply, while 14% have no confidence at all. NPR reported that food recalls have been rising since the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic, and that recalls reached their highest levels since 2019 in this fiscal year. However, the high levels of food recalls could be evidence that our food regulation system is working. Amanda Deering, associate professor of food science at Purdue University told NPR that U.S. food safety has become more detail oriented, and communication about food safety has become more efficient. She says that scientists at the CDC and other labs have improved their methods of detecting and tracing foodborne illnesses. Linda Harris, a food scientist at University of California, Davis says to not take any chances with recalled food products and to throw them away. She also highlights the importance of safe food handling practices, such as making sure meat is fully cooked and fully cleaning produce items.

To end tonight's show with a moment of good news, let's look at a headline straight from Geneseo! Jaime Castillo, SUNY Geneseo's director of counseling services, was named a fellow of SUNY's 2025 Hispanic Leadership Institute last month. Ten faculty and staff members from across SUNY campuses were selected as 2025 fellows. Hispanic Leadership Institute is a nine-month program that allows fellows to further develop higher education leadership skills and proficiencies. Fellows participate in rigorous training sessions and webinars, have discussions with national and state leaders, and master personal assessment tools. The institute creates many opportunities for SUNY faculty and staff members and gives alumni continuous

opportunities for support and mentorship. Castillo is a first-generation American, has earned a PhD from Syracuse University, and has worked as a mental health practitioner for over 15 years. SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. said that “The Hispanic Leadership Institute has helped 71 individuals committed to inclusivity and excellence become leaders at their respective institutions and serve as role models for all students, allowing them to see what is possible for themselves”.

Thank you for listening to Story Station U! I’ll be back next semester, continuing to break down the most important headlines! Story Station U will be moving to a new broadcast time next semester, so make sure to keep an eye out for updates on that, so that you never miss a headline! Once again, I’m your host, Madilyn Becker, and you can find my script and all of my sources for tonight’s episode on WGSU’s website! Thank you for listening, happy holidays, and happy new year!